

# BURMA AND BANGLADESH

## REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2020

NOVEMBER 22, 2019

### NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**941,351**

People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Burma  
UN – December 2018

**106,183**

IDPs in Burma's Kachin and Northern Shan  
UN – September 2019

**130,886**

IDPs in Burma's Central Rakhine IDP Sites<sup>4</sup>  
UN – September 2019

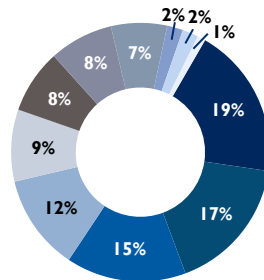
**914,998**

Total Number of Refugees in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar  
UNHCR – September 30, 2019

**744,400**

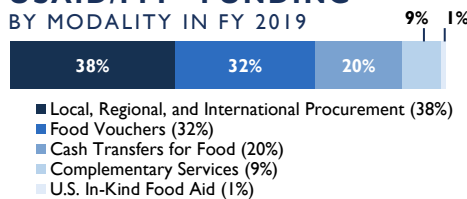
People Displaced from Burma to Bangladesh Since August 25, 2017  
UNHCR – September 30, 2019

### USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup> FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2019



- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (19%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (17%)
- Risk Management Policy & Practice (15%)
- Country-Based Pooled Fund (12%)
- Protection (9%)
- Shelter & Settlements (8%)
- Agriculture and Food Security (8%)
- Health (7%)
- Nutrition (2%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (2%)
- Other (1%)

### USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2019



### KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On November 9 and 10, Tropical Cyclone Matmo—known locally as Cyclonic Storm Bulbul—made landfall over southwest Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh led an efficient response to storm damage and did not request international assistance. Although the storm did not directly pass over Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar District or cause significant damage to camp infrastructure and shelters, the effects of the storm resulted in minor damage to an estimated 170 refugee household shelters. Local relief actors, including U.S. Government (USG) partners, responded to the affected refugees' needs across Cox's Bazar's camps.
- The Government of Burma officially launched its national strategy on internally displaced person (IDP) camp closures on November 19. The international community continues to analyze the document for adherence to the key humanitarian principles of free, informed, and voluntary IDP movements.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Tropical Cyclone Matmo causes no major damage in Cox's Bazar refugee camps
- Relief agencies continue to provide emergency assistance to vulnerable populations in Rakhine despite humanitarian access constraints and insecurity

### HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH RESPONSE IN FY 2019

USAID/OFDA	\$38,508,664
USAID/FFP <sup>2</sup>	\$149,512,742
State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$171,493,932
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$359,515,338</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

<sup>2</sup> USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) funding includes additional regional contributions to UN and international organization partners supporting those most in need in the region, including ongoing programs for Burmese refugees, asylum seekers, and IDPs, while USAID funding includes new and ongoing activities in Burma's Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan states, as well as in Bangladesh.

<sup>4</sup> This number reflects the number of IDPs in sites created after the outbreak of violence in Rakhine State in 2012. It does not include the sites and settlements in Rakhine where people displaced by the recent clashes in the state are currently hosted.

## **BURMA**

### **Conflict, Displacement, and Humanitarian Access**

- Conflict between the Arakan Army (AA) and Government of Burma forces, as well as bureaucratic impediments, continue to constrain humanitarian access to IDPs in Burma's Rakhine State. From January to August, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Myanmar Red Cross Society jointly provided emergency assistance to 37,500 IDPs and 12,500 host community members in more than 60 locations across Rakhine. Activities included distributing emergency shelter materials, food assistance, and relief commodities and enhancing health services and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities, the UN reports. However, humanitarian access has remained sporadic and temporary, hampering relief actors' abilities to assess needs, monitor activities, and provide assistance in locations affected by the AA–Government of Burma conflict beyond ad hoc relief commodity distributions. As of late September, nearly 31,000 people remained displaced due to the conflict, according to the Rakhine State Government, although the displacement situation remains dynamic.
- Government of Burma-imposed access constraints in rural areas of conflict-affected townships since January continue to interrupt the provision of non-food humanitarian and development assistance to an estimated 100,000 people supported via ongoing programs in central Rakhine; the Government of Burma has also restricted non-food assistance to rural areas of northern Rakhine since August 2017.
- On November 19, the Government of Burma officially launched the National Strategy on Resettlement of IDPs and IDP Camp Closures. The international community commends strengthened references to full access to basic rights, safety, voluntariness, and other essential components of durable solutions in the document and aims to collaborate with local and national authorities to ensure the strategy's implementation is in line with these principles.
- Since early October, conflict between Government of Burma forces and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army in northern Shan State has increased, resulting in civilian casualties. Conflict between armed groups and Government of Burma forces previously displaced at least 9,000 people in the state between mid-August and early September. However, the majority of those newly displaced by the conflict had returned to their areas of origin by mid-September, according to the UN. The insecurity in Shan continues to hinder humanitarian access to vulnerable populations in the area.

### **Food Security and Nutrition**

- USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) provided 3,900 metric tons of in-kind food assistance and \$1 million in cash transfers to more than 659,000 individuals in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan states in September. With USAID/FFP support, WFP provided hot meals or nutritional snacks to more than 296,000 children at child care centers and primary schools across Burma. Additionally, the UN agency organized the country's first technical workshop to develop national school feeding guidelines in Burma's capital city of Nay Pyi Taw in September. WFP's nutrition interventions benefited 6,300 children ages 24–59 months and pregnant and lactating women across Chin State, Magwe Region, and Yangon city's peri-urban areas in September.
- USG partner the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and its partners continued nutrition activities, including the distribution of ready-to-use therapeutic food, to communities in Rakhine's Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Pauktaw, and Sittwe townships in September. In addition, UNICEF's partners delivered nutrition treatment activities at outpatient therapeutic programs in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Sittwe townships.
- In September, with USAID/FFP assistance, UNICEF supported organizations to conduct training for 115 health care staff on community-based infant and young child feeding programs. The trainings complement the work of nutrition partners by developing multi-sectoral, nutrition-sensitive activities, including acute malnutrition screenings for recently displaced populations. As of August 31, UNICEF and its partners treated more than 2,700 children younger than five years of age for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in Rakhine. In addition, UNICEF completed the integrated management of acute malnutrition with Rakhine State health facilities.

## **BANGLADESH**

### **Cyclone Season Effects and Response**

- From November 9 to 10, Tropical Cyclone Matmo made landfall over southwest Bangladesh and resulted in light-to-moderate damage to approximately 170 refugee household shelters in Cox's Bazar, according to the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG)—a humanitarian coordinating body in Bangladesh comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders. However, relief actors reported no major damage to shelters or camp infrastructure as of November 11, and regular camp response mechanisms addressed the affected households' needs, the ISCG reports. To coordinate potential USG response efforts, USAID/OFDA deployed three staff to Bangladesh's capital city of Dhaka on November 10. The Government of Bangladesh led the cyclone response and ultimately did not request USG or other international assistance. While Cox's Bazar was not heavily impacted, humanitarian actors coordinated to support refugee and host communities, covering all 34 refugee camps in the district. State/PRM partner the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies engaged in preparation and readiness efforts across the camps in coordination with the French Development Agency, the Government of Bangladesh Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner and the Teknaf and Ukhiya sub-district commissioners, USG partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the ISCG, the Johns Hopkins University Center for Communication Programs, State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and site management agencies.
- On November 12, the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) released a preliminary flood assessment of Bangladesh's Bhashan Char Island based on available satellite imagery of impacts from Tropical Cyclone Matmo. The storm tracked west of Bhashan Char, rather than over the island as previously projected; UNITAR detected no major flooding on the island, noting that buildings and roads appeared intact. However, the eastern part of the island experienced a storm surge of nearly 6 feet. In response to the Government of Bangladesh's ongoing intention to relocate up to 100,000 Rohingya refugees from Cox's Bazar to Bhashan Char, humanitarian actors have expressed concerns about potentially unsuitable living conditions on the remote island, which is vulnerable to the effects of cyclones and monsoon season rainfall.

### **Food Security, Health, and Nutrition**

- Approximately 95 percent of refugee households across Cox's Bazar have acceptable or borderline food consumption scores—a metric combining the frequency, dietary diversity, and nutritional value of a household's meals for a week prior to the survey—with 88 percent of Rohingya refugees relying on external food assistance to meet their food needs, according to the October 2019 Joint Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA). Across assessed camps, the MSNA found that no more than 9 percent of refugee households in any individual camp had poor food consumption scores, suggesting that humanitarian assistance is meeting basic food needs. Of mothers surveyed with children younger than two years of age, 70 percent were enrolled in nutrition programs, including 4 percent who received SAM treatment. The MSNA results are comparable to the findings of the 2019 Rohingya Influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment—based on data from November 2018—indicating that the food security situation has remained relatively stable between the surveys conducted nine months apart.
- For host communities in Teknaf and Ukhiya, the MSNA indicated that more than 70 percent of households had an acceptable food consumption score, with 25 percent of participants identified as borderline and 4 percent as poor food consumption. The MSNA also highlighted a relative lack of dietary diversity within both communities, with 36 percent of host community households eating four or more food groups, compared to 22 percent of the refugee population.
- From October 27 to 31, State/PRM partner the UN World Health Organization (WHO) conducted a five-day training on the Mental Health Gap Action Program (mhGAP) for more than 20 service providers in Cox's Bazar, including clinical psychologists, doctors, midwives, and nurses working at district and sub-district levels. WHO provides monthly mhGAP trainings to health workers in Cox's Bazar, serving both Rohingya and host community facilities. In addition, the UN agency reported on November 7 that diarrheal disease is increasing in Cox's Bazar, with 120 confirmed acute watery diarrhea (AWD) cases reported since September. In response, WHO and health sector actors have recommended that AWD patients arriving to health facilities with dehydration should be referred to diarrhea treatment centers.

## CONTEXT

- In early June 2011, a ceasefire between the Government of Burma and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) broke down when fighting between Government of Burma security forces and the KIA erupted in southeastern Kachin, resulting in population displacement. Conflict in Kachin and northern Shan among armed groups and Government of Burma forces continues to generate additional displacement and humanitarian needs. As of September 2019, more than 106,000 people remained displaced in Kachin and northern Shan, with many IDPs residing in areas outside of Government of Burma control with limited humanitarian access. The Government of Burma announced a unilateral ceasefire with the KIA in December 2018, which expired in September 2019.
- Since November 2018, escalating clashes between the AA and Government of Burma have displaced at least 30,000 civilians, mostly ethnic Rakhine, in Chin and Rakhine in recent months. Government of Burma-imposed access restrictions beginning in January 2019 in affected townships are hindering efforts to provide assistance to displaced populations and interrupting ongoing programs that aim to continue delivering services to approximately 100,000 people in need.
- Intercommunal violence in 2012 displaced tens of thousands of people in Rakhine, according to the UN. As of September 2019, nearly 131,000 people affected by the 2012 clashes remained displaced. These displaced populations, as well as other vulnerable individuals, continue to lack access to basic services and livelihood opportunities due to ongoing tensions and movement restrictions. Many IDPs in Rakhine are Rohingya, a minority group not recognized by the Government of Burma and denied rights to citizenship, freedom of movement, and public services. As of December 2018, an estimated 600,000 ethnic Rohingya remained in Rakhine.
- Following attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army on northern Rakhine checkpoints and police posts in October 2016 and August 2017, Government of Burma forces launched military operations in northern Rakhine's Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung townships. Since August 25, 2017, insecurity and violence have prompted more than 744,000 people to flee from Burma to Bangladesh. UNHCR estimates that the total number of Burmese refugees in Cox's Bazar is approximately 915,000 people as of September 2019.
- On December 27, 2018, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires George Sibley re-declared a disaster for Burma due to the ongoing complex emergency.
- USAID/OFDA, USAID/FFP, and State/PRM staff are coordinating with humanitarian partners in Burma and Bangladesh to assess humanitarian conditions, identify response gaps, and recommend response priorities.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA-BANGLADESH RESPONSE IN FY 2019<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
American Refugee Committee (ARC)	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Rakhine	\$1,342,810
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Protection	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$1,000,000
IOM	ERMS, Health, Protection, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Rakhine	\$1,300,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health, Protection	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$1,200,000
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	ERMS, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), Multipurpose Cash Assistance	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$1,350,000
Save the Children Federation (SCF)	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Rakhine	\$2,200,000
Solidarités International	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine	\$2,000,000
UNICEF	Health, Protection, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$4,503,114

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIM	Burma	\$400,000
	Country-Based Pooled Fund <sup>3</sup>	Burma	\$4,500,000
World Vision	Agriculture and Food Security, Protection, WASH	Rakhine	\$1,358,385
	Program Support		\$133,224
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA RESPONSE FUNDING FOR THE BURMA COMPLEX EMERGENCY</b>			<b>\$21,287,533</b>
ACF	ERMS, Risk Management Policy and Practice, WASH	Bangladesh	\$3,700,000
Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)	Risk Management Policy and Practice	Bangladesh	\$617,905
CARE	Protection, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Bangladesh	\$2,600,000
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	Bangladesh	\$1,200,000
IOM	ERMS, Risk Management Policy and Practice	Bangladesh	\$4,300,000
Solidarités International	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Risk Management Policy and Practice	Bangladesh	\$3,692,000
WFP	Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	Bangladesh	\$1,000,000
	Program Support		\$111,226
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING IN BANGLADESH</b>			<b>\$17,221,131</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING IN BURMA AND BANGLADESH</b>			<b>\$38,508,664</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>4</sup></b>			
SCF	Cash Transfers for Food	Burma	\$2,535,334
UNICEF	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Burma	\$1,105,507
WFP	Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Burma	\$13,901,255
	Cash Transfers for Food	Burma	\$7,947,646
	Complementary Services	Burma	\$520,258
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR THE BURMA COMPLEX EMERGENCY</b>			<b>\$26,010,000</b>
ACF	Cash Transfers for Food	Bangladesh	\$5,567,850
	Complementary Services	Bangladesh	\$1,432,150
WFP	Food Vouchers	Bangladesh	\$42,373,964
	Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Bangladesh	\$43,516,768
	Complementary Services	Bangladesh	\$6,750,000
	Cash Transfers for Food	Bangladesh	\$5,862,010
World Vision	Cash Transfers for Food	Bangladesh	\$7,450,081
	Food Vouchers	Bangladesh	\$6,114,150
	Complementary Services	Bangladesh	\$4,435,769
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR THE ROHINGYA RESPONSE IN BANGLADESH</b>			<b>\$123,502,742</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING IN BURMA AND BANGLADESH</b>			<b>\$149,512,742</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
A Call To Serve	Health	Malaysia	\$396,627
Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation	Health	Malaysia	\$498,026

Health Equity Initiatives	Health, Psychosocial Support	Malaysia	\$600,000
Humanity and Inclusion	Humanitarian Assistance for Persons with Disabilities, including Cross-Border Mine Risk Education	Thailand	\$593,327
International Catholic Migration Commission	Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response	Malaysia	\$592,846
ICRC	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$5,100,000
	Humanitarian Assistance	Burma	\$10,700,000
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$24,720,526
	Humanitarian Assistance	Thailand	\$350,000
International Rescue Committee	Agriculture and Food Security, Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response, Health, Livelihoods, Nutrition, Psychosocial Support, WASH	Thailand	\$18,842,580
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$70,425,000
	Humanitarian Assistance	Burma	\$8,950,000
	Humanitarian Assistance	Regional	\$3,225,000
UNICEF	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh	\$26,500,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$171,493,932</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING IN FY 2019<sup>5</sup></b>			<b>\$359,515,338</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. USAID/FFP and State/PRM funding includes funding for both Burmese refugees and asylum seekers in the region, as well as IDPs inside Burma.

<sup>2</sup> USG funding represents publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Country-based pooled funds are country-based multi-donor humanitarian financing instruments managed by OCHA under the guidance of the Humanitarian Coordinator.

<sup>4</sup> Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change once purchased.

<sup>5</sup> Funding for populations in Burma and Bangladesh affected by the violence in Rakhine State totals more than \$729 million—including more than \$613 million in Bangladesh and more than \$116 million in Burma—since the outbreak of violence in August 2017. This includes nearly \$390 million in State/PRM funding, more than \$277 million in USAID/FFP funding, and more than \$62 million in USAID/OFDA funding for populations affected by the violence in Rakhine State and other vulnerable populations. The fact sheet total includes funding from October 1, 2018, through September 30, 2019.

## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org).
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>